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MEDAL IN HONOR OF DR. STEPHEN SMITH

The plaque (photographed by Paul Thompson) from which the souvenir medal in honor of Dr. Smith was made. It was modeled by Michele Martino, the New York sculptor.

THE PROGRESS OF SCIENCE¹

THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

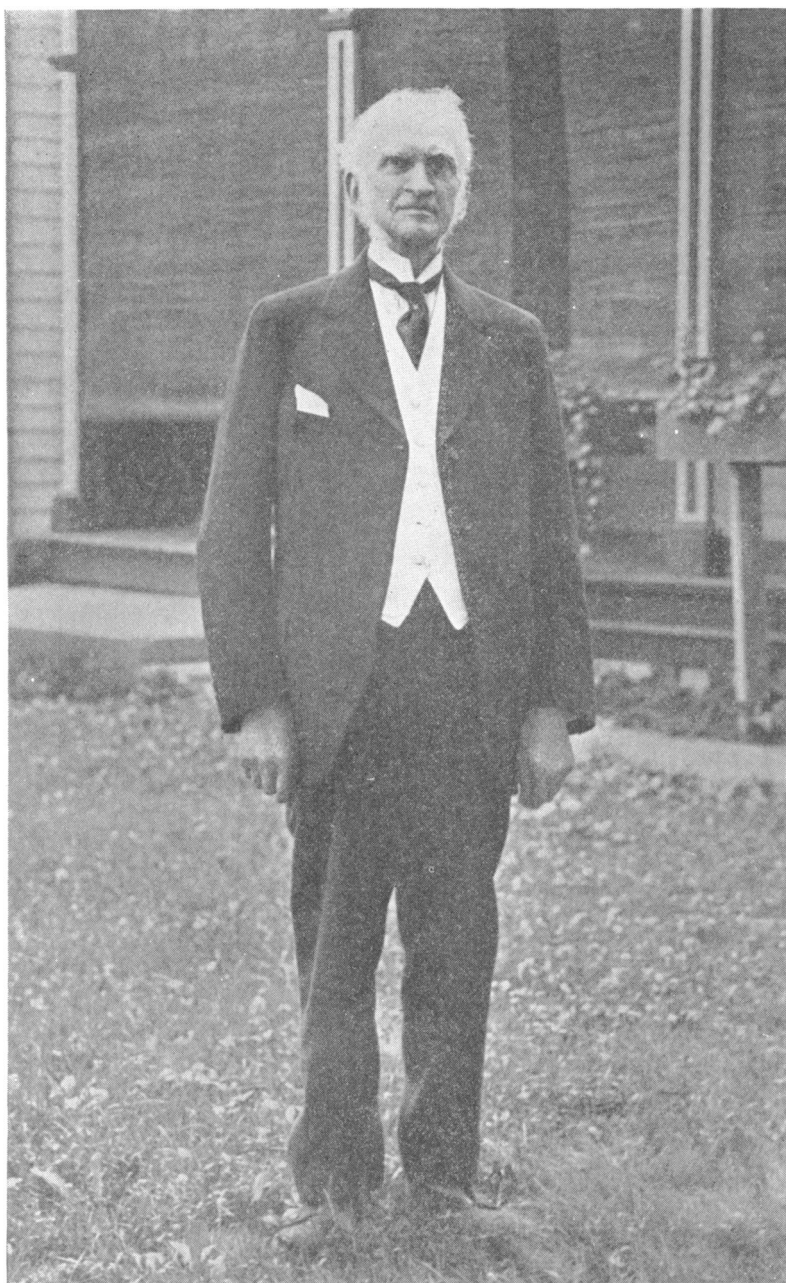
New York has been the scene of semi-centennial meetings of the American Public Health Association from November 8 to 19. During the first week, there was a public health institute which included demonstrations on vital statistics, hygiene of mother and child, public health nursing, socio-health, sanitary engineering, communicable diseases, laboratory work, food and drugs and industrial hygiene. This was the occasion for visits to clinics, stations, institutions, centers, laboratories, hospitals, water and sewage plants, and other public health activity centers in New York City and its vicinity.

During the week of November 14, the largest health exposition ever attempted was held at the Grand Central Palace through the cooperation of the American Public Health Asso-

ciation and the Department of Health of the City of New York. This exhibit was marked by many novelties, such as children's health games, fat reducing squads, perfect baby contests, perfect teeth and foot contests. Social service and scientific organizations joined in the exhibition. Among them were the National Tuberculosis Association, the National Health Council, the American Social Hygiene Association, the American Museum of Natural History, the American Society for the Control of Cancer and the National Committee for Mental Hygiene.

The fiftieth annual meeting of the association, held from November 14 to 18, included both general and scientific sessions. Representatives from Canada, Cuba and Mexico, as well as all parts of the United States, were in attendance. Dr. Mazyck P. Ravenel, as president of the association, delivered the principal opening ad-

¹ Edited by Watson Davis, Science Service.



DR. STEPHEN SMITH

**Founder of the American Public Health Association, which is now celebrating its fiftieth anniversary.
Although 99 years of age, Dr. Smith is active in the work of the association.**

dress. The scientific papers and addresses included a wide variety of subjects under the general topics of public health administration, laboratory work, vital statistics, food and drugs, sanitary engineering, industrial hygiene, child hygiene, health education and publicity. In commemoration of the semi-centennial celebration, the association is also publishing a jubilee historical volume.

Attending these sessions, and guest at a banquet in his honor, was Dr. Stephen Smith, who fifty years ago founded the American Public Health Association and became its first president. Though now ninety-nine years old, Dr. Smith still takes an active part in the affairs of the association. He was further honored during the health fortnight by a souvenir bronze medal bearing his portrait and fittingly inscribed to denote his participation in the fiftieth annual meeting. In addition to his activities in the American Public Health Association, Dr. Smith has been a leader in city and national health work. He is the author of books on surgery and other medical subjects and before the Civil War was editor of several medical journals. As surgeon, he has served Bellevue Hospital many years, and in 1896 he represented this country at the Ninth International Sanitary Convention.

SCIENTIFIC PROBLEMS OF THE PACIFIC

The Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at its recent meeting in Berkeley endorsed the idea of the Washington Conference on the Limitation of Armaments and Pacific Problems and offered the services of scientific men to the President of the United States for solving such Pacific problems as may require expert scientific knowledge.

Dr. William E. Ritter, director of the Scripps Institution for Biological Research, La Jolla, California, writes:

The resolutions adopted had two

aims. One was generally informative. It would let the government and people of the United States know, so far as it might, where the scientists thus expressing themselves stand relative to the purposes of the conference. The hope was that the resolutions would do something toward correcting the belief, now too prevalent, that science is in effect more favorable than unfavorable to the militaristic type of international dealing. The other aim was more concrete. It would make scientific knowledge and research, and technical skill, positive factors in solving international problems by intelligence, which usually follows the way of peace, instead of by emotion, which usually follows the way of war.

The National Research Council has a committee on Pacific Investigations composed of: Herbert E. Gregory, chairman, Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii; T. Wayland Vaughan, vice-chairman, United States Geological Survey; William Bowie, United States Coast and Geodetic Survey; Barton W. Evermann, California Academy of Sciences; John C. Merriam, Carnegie Institution of Washington; William E. Ritter, Scripps Institution for Biological Research; W. T. Swingle, United States Department of Agriculture; and Clark Wissler, American Museum of Natural History.

GOVERNMENT EDUCATIONAL COURSES

Two scientific branches of the government are helping their scientific staffs to become more useful to themselves and to the government by offering the opportunity to take courses of graduate study after office hours.

For more than ten years the Bureau of Standards has been maintaining advanced courses in physics, mathematics and chemistry, and this year the Department of Agriculture has inaugurated a system of advanced instruction in those scientific and technical subjects related to the work of the department in which adequate instruction is not available in Washington.